

## RAREST OF AMERICAN COINS

### TWO \$50 GOLD PIECES BOUGHT BY NEW YORK COLLECTOR.

Only Known Issues of This Kind and Minted in 1877—Brought More Than \$60,000 Paid for the Brasher Doubloon—Some Other Recent Sales.

Two unique United States gold coins of the denomination of \$50, each of different design, which have long been regarded as the rarest coins in the world by American coin collectors, were purchased a few days ago by William H. Woodin of this city at a figure for each which by far exceeds all record high premiums paid for any coin ever sold.

The coins were bought of John W. Haseltine and Stephen K. Nagy, Philadelphia coin dealers, the total amount paid eclipsing the previous high record for an American coin. This record was held by a specimen of the New York Brasher doubloon in gold struck in this city in 1787, for which \$6,200 was paid at a Philadelphia sale a few years ago.

The newly discovered gold pieces are included in the United States series of pattern coins and represent the most interesting pieces in the American series, the denomination being equivalent to five eagles, or the "half union" recommended in 1834 by Secretary of the Treasury Guthrie. They illustrate the single case where United States coins of this value were struck in gold. They never emerged from the experimental stage, although declared by experts to be the handsomest and the most striking coins ever issued at the United States mint.

These two gold pieces have not been seen since the year of their minting, 1877, and were supposed by all collectors to have been melted up.

Each of the coins is of a distinctive design, although differing only in minor details. They are exactly two inches in diameter and one-eighth of an inch in thickness.

These were the only \$50 gold pieces ever issued at the United States mint and are not to be confounded with the \$50 pieces minted in California, dated 1851, 1852 and 1853. The latter pieces were of a semi-circular shape, having been issued by Moffat & Co., a firm of United States assay contractors, and by the private coining firms of Wass, Molitor & Co. and Kellogg & Co.

And yet the two circular pieces of California and the two rare circular United States "quintuple eagles" which have unexpectedly come to light are closely associated, having all been issued in response to a general demand on the part of the bankers and merchants of San Francisco.

Before the establishment of the United States branch mint at San Francisco in 1854 the California pioneers had to rely upon gold dust and the gold coins made by private persons for their circulating medium. The gold dust fluctuated greatly in value and purchasing power, while the private coins nearly all were of a depreciated character, ranging in value from 8 to 20 per cent. discount. To relieve the inconvenience and loss caused by this circulating medium of indefinite value the Government in 1850 provided for the establishment of an assay office at San Francisco. This office was conducted by Moffat & Co., and the official who placed the Government stamp upon the ingots was Augustus Humbert, formerly of this city. Upon the appearance of the United States assay office ingots all the private gold coins were gradually driven out of circulation, many of them being deposited at the assay office and reissued in the shape of the octagonal ingots. The private coins, though of depreciated value, were nevertheless very convenient, as they were of the useful denominations of five, ten and twenty dollars. The regular United States gold coins of small denominations rarely appeared in local trade in California, being reserved for the payment of customs duties.

In a short time the gold coins of the smaller denominations all disappeared and the local currency consisted almost wholly of the huge octagonal fifty dollar pieces. Change became so scarce that it was necessary to pay 2 or 3 per cent. for the use of the "eagles" changed into smaller denominations.

Relief to a certain extent was furnished in 1854, when more United States gold pieces came into circulation from the San Francisco branch mint began operations. Soon the octagonal pieces met the fate of the smaller California coin, being exported or sent to the local mint and reissued, and it was not long before the business men of California felt the need of a gold piece of large denomination.

As a result the business men of San Francisco early in 1854 presented a petition to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting him to authorize the striking at the San Francisco mint of a fifty dollar piece of the same size and fineness as the regular United States double eagle.

This memorial was forwarded to William M. Gwin, one of California's Senators, who in turn presented it to James Guthrie, then Secretary of the Treasury. In his reply Mr. Guthrie favored the issue of gold pieces of large denomination for use in the Pacific States, although he said such pieces were not needed in the East.

Mr. Gwin also presented a bill for the coinage of \$50 and \$100 pieces. It was planned to call these half unions and unions.

Badly needed as were the gold coin provided by the bill, it never became a law. On May 29, 1854, Senator Gwin again brought the matter of the issue of the five and ten eagle pieces to the attention of the Senate, but discussion was postponed. On June 16 the bill passed the Senate by a large majority, although it failed to meet the approval of the House.

Early in 1855, as the Government showed no signs of responding favorably to the appeals of the Californians for a \$5 piece, two of the principal private coining firms of San Francisco, Wass, Molitor & Co. and Kellogg & Co., began the issue of circular \$50 gold coins. Both issues were worth fully their face value, although the gold was of a lower fineness in the Kellogg piece than contained by the regular United States coins, making necessary an increased weight for the Kellogg coin of 1909 grains. Which is stamped on the ribbon carried in the back of the eagle on the reverse.

It is customary at the mint to provide samples of the coins which are struck as soon as the bill authorizing such an issue is presented. From such dies sample pieces in base metal are usually made, which in former years were given to the member presenting the bill to be used as a material illustration. In only rare instances, however, are such pieces struck in gold, and the consequence is that United States pattern coins in gold are highly esteemed by collectors.

It is not known why the work of executing the dies of the United States \$50 pieces was delayed until 1877 when the reason for their creation occurred in 1854. While only these two pieces were struck in gold, still a number of specimens were made from each of the two sets of dies. Even the copper pieces are of great rarity and highly valued.

The coins were designed by William Barber, formerly chief engraver of the mint and father of the present chief engraver, Charles E. Barber. Mr. Barber's initial, "B," appears on the coins under the bust of Liberty. The reverse design of both coins is exactly the same. There are marked differences on the obverse. The head of Liberty on one is larger, than

the other, the diadem bearing the word "Liberty" being plain, while the second variety shows a smaller head and the diadem bears five starlike ornaments. The date of both coins is 1854.

High records for rare American coins were also created at the auction of the collection of Capt. Andrew C. Zabriskie, of this city, in Philadelphia, in 1883, among the new records are those premiums which have been paid for the gold coins of various denominations issued by private persons in this country from 1787 up to 1861. These coins were issued in Georgia, North Carolina, California, Utah, Oregon and Colorado.

The first record made was \$85 for a United States quarter eagle, dated 1848, which bears the tiny capital letters "Cal" on the reverse, though the rest of the design is the same as that of the regular United States gold piece of the same denomination. This coin was struck at the Philadelphia mint from the very first gold to reach the East from the newly discovered gold fields in the Sierra Nevada.

The ten dollar gold piece of the Cincinnati Mining and Trading Company of California, dated 1849, with an Indian head on one side, brought \$1,800, another of the same date, with a different design, with the denomination "10 Dollars" surrounded by thirty-eight stars and the letters "J. S. O." in the center of the obverse, was sold for \$1,800. A coin struck at Sacramento, Cal., in 1849, brought the record price of \$1,800.

The first complete set of the gold coins struck by the Mormons in Upper and Lower Utah, dated 1849, brought \$1,800. A gold piece of the same date, struck by the Mormons in Utah, brought \$1,800. A gold piece of the same date, struck by the Mormons in Utah, brought \$1,800.

The issue of the California United States Assay Office, which operated in San Francisco from 1851 to 1853, brought several high records. An unrecalled specimen of the octagonal fifty dollar gold piece, or "eagle," the finest specimen known, was sold for \$1,800. A gold piece of the same date, brought \$1,000, which almost doubles the previous premium paid for such a coin. Three other octagonal fifty dollar pieces brought respectively \$120, \$300 and \$400. For a twenty dollar piece made at the same assay office a record price of \$300 was paid, while one of the ten dollar pieces brought \$110.

Two gold coins struck by Baldwin & Co. of San Francisco in 1850 of the denominations of five and ten dollars brought record prices of \$180 and \$250. A gold piece of the same date, brought \$1,000, which almost doubles the previous premium paid for such a coin. A gold piece of the same date, brought \$1,000, which almost doubles the previous premium paid for such a coin. A gold piece of the same date, brought \$1,000, which almost doubles the previous premium paid for such a coin.

Two gold coins struck by the Massachusetts and California Company in 1849, respectively struck in silver and copper, brought \$750 and \$310. A gold piece of the same date, brought \$1,000, which almost doubles the previous premium paid for such a coin. A gold piece of the same date, brought \$1,000, which almost doubles the previous premium paid for such a coin. A gold piece of the same date, brought \$1,000, which almost doubles the previous premium paid for such a coin.

A \$250 gold piece struck by Templeton, Redd & Co., an assayer who conducted a private coining business in that State in 1830, brought \$280. The gold coins of the denomination of \$1, \$2 and \$5, struck by the Bechtlers of North Carolina from 1831 to some time in the '50s brought many new records. A one dollar gold piece issued by Christopher Bechtler weighing 25 grains of gold brought \$18. A \$250 piece made by the same assayer bearing the inscription "North Carolina Gold 250 C. 75 G." brought a high record of \$400, the highest premium ever paid for one of these private quarter eagles. Another \$250 piece issued by this coin, of slightly different design, showing "250 C. 75 G." on one side, brought \$200, while a third, bearing the inscription "Carolina Gold 70 G. 20 Carats," brought \$135. New records also were made for the five dollar pieces, the weight of 150 grains brought \$420, while another of the issue of August Bechtler weighing 141 grains, of a fineness of 20 carats, sold for \$80.

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As a result the business men of San Francisco early in 1854 presented a petition to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting him to authorize the striking at the San Francisco mint of a fifty dollar piece of the same size and fineness as the regular United States double eagle.

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## CONY ISLAND'S TROUBLES.

### Injunctions Granted—Bingham Says Law Will Prevail—Clery Takes a Hand.

Justice Rich in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn yesterday granted injunction restraining Police Commissioner Bingham from interfering with the sale of wines and liquors at four amusement places at Cony Island. Application for the injunction was first made to Justice Kelly in the Supreme Court and they were refused.

The injunctions were applied for on the ground that the places in question had been run as concert halls at Cony Island for many years without police interference and that on the first day of June Commissioner Bingham issued an order evoking their licenses to sell wines and liquors.

Commissioner Bingham when asked yesterday what the police would do at Cony Island to-day replied that there would be no change in the policy.

"The law will be enforced, just as it has always been," said the Commissioner. District Attorney Clarke of Brooklyn yesterday received a letter from the Interdenominational Committee of the Clergy of Greater New York for the Suppression of Sunday Vaudeville calling his attention to the recent decision of Judge Greenbaum denying a Deul ordinance prohibiting all performances in theatres or other places of entertainment on Sunday. The District Attorney is asked to investigate the recent action of the City Magistrate in dismissing the complaints against alleged violators of the Sunday law at Cony Island.

"The prohibition," the District Attorney is told, "is not antique, but has the approval of recent Legislatures, for the amusement business interests involved have done all they can to prevent the last three Legislatures to change the law so as to enable them to do a large Sunday business. All these attempts have been overthrown. Even a bill was introduced in the Assembly this spring by an emphatically decisive vote. Within the last few months about thirty bills attacking Sunday were killed. Corrupt business ought not to find it easier to deceive or corrupt the courts than to convince the Legislature."

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## "These Goods Not Advertised"

At this season many of our best values are in comparatively limited quantities, and for that reason we refrain from advertising them. You'll find all such lots on counters beneath placards that post you.

## Ten Thousand Yards "Shah Extra" Yard-wide All-Silk Shantungs

Usual \$1.50; Special Price, \$1.50; at ... 84c

These Shantungs were made by the same manufacturer that gave "Rajah" Silks to the world. And Shantungs match Rajahs, their rivals, in beauty and strength. These Shantungs are 36 inches wide—natural, black and twenty-two beautiful colors; value \$1.50 a yard; special, 84c

## From the Collection of SEIZED GOWNS

Recently Auctioned by the United States Government. LINGERIE HAND-MADE PARISIAN GOWNS, in Princess and Empire models, elaborately hand-embroidered; trimmed with Valenciennes insertion, edgings and all-over hand-tucks: Prices range from

\$89.75 to \$169.00

These models represent the very last word in Parisian Fashions and we take the opportunity of inviting you to feast your eyes upon them. On display in our Broadway Windows.

## Women's \$37.50 Gowns, \$27.74

PRINCESS AND EMPIRE MODELS, made of handsome toulars, embroidered pongee, satins and messalines, in rose, green, gray, blue and black; all effectively trimmed and made in the most up-to-date manner; value \$37.50; special at \$27.74.

## Women's \$45.00 Tailored Suits, \$29.74

HANDSOMELY TAILORED SUITS, in two and three piece models; made of worsteds, satin cloths and numerous other fabrics in all the wanted colors and black; coats are long and the skirts are in the new styles; values range up to \$45.00; special at \$29.74.

## Women's \$45.00 Pongee Suits, \$29.74

WOMEN'S NEWEST-MODEL SUITS, made of pongee in natural and colored effects; long coats with notched, square or shawl collars; lined with soft silks; full skirts; value \$45.00; special at \$29.74.

## Women's \$27.50 Lace Coats, \$17.74

WOMEN'S Dainty WHITE LACE COATS, Empire model, handsome Renaissance effects; 48 inches long; finished with long sleeves; value \$27.50; special at \$17.74.

## Women's \$18.50 Lace Coats, \$12.74

WOMEN'S 34-INCH COATS, made of French Irish lace, semi-fitting model, with curaway front and long sleeves; value \$18.50; special at \$12.74.

## SPECIALS FOR TUESDAY

Full-bleached Cambric and Muslin 24 inches wide; value 30c; special Tuesday, in the base, 25c.

Mohair Brilliantine, fast black, lustrous finish, dust-shedding weave, 54 inches wide; made to sell at 65c; a yard; special Tuesday, on main floor, 49c.

Austrian Drawnwork Tea and Table Cloth, bleached snow white; three rows of drawnwork and spole stitching around border; special Tuesday, on main floor: 45-in. square, 74c; 54-in. square, 98c; 72-in. square, at \$1.48.

Women's Neck Ruffs, made of chiffon, satin net and maline. Pierrot style and long ruff effects; in brown, black, rose, navy, green, white, tan, wistaria, gray and Copenhagen; also combinations of tan and black and white; value 80c; to \$4.99; special Tuesday, on main floor, 69c to \$2.97.

Embroidered Muslin Shirt Waist Frontings, 27 inches wide; value 70c; a yard; special Tuesday, on main floor, 49c.

Nainsook Corset Cover Embroidered; value 40c; a yard; special Tuesday, on main floor, 29c.

Women's Striped Lawn Petticoats, full, umbrella ruff, finished with small ruffles; special Tuesday, on second floor, 29c.

Women's Wash Silk Waists, striped effects; turn-down collar, lace collar, or finished with narrow pleating; special Tuesday, on second floor, \$4.96.

Women's Shepherd Check Skirts, in black and white only; finished with folds and satin-covered buttons; new styles; value \$7.50; special Tuesday, on second floor, \$4.49.

Children's Dutch Neck Dresses, made of fine Hamburg; prettily trimmed with fine Hamburg insertions; full-pleated skirts; sizes 8 to 14 years; value \$3.75; special Tuesday, on second floor, \$2.96.

Boys' Suits, with extra trousers, made of gray mixed chevrons; long coat, knickerbocker trousers; size 7 to 17 years; value \$4.00; special Tuesday, on second floor, \$2.89.

Colored Fish Net Curtains, in green and red; value \$1.50 to \$3.00 pair; special Tuesday, on third floor, 99c to \$1.89.

Ruffled Muslin Curtains, figured and plain centres, suitable for summer cottages; value \$1.00 to \$3.50 a pair; special Tuesday, on third floor, 69c to \$2.24.

Colored Novelty Scrim Curtains, in red, green and blue, with fancy embroidered edges and insertions; value \$1.00 to \$3.00 a pair; special Tuesday, on third floor, \$5.94 to \$8.24.

Crib Mattresses, filled with cotton, covered with fancy ticking; regularly \$2.40; special Tuesday, on fourth floor, \$1.49.

White Enamelled Beds, single size, scroll design; regularly \$2.40; special Tuesday, on fourth floor, \$1.49.

Solid Oak Dining Tables, golden finish, heavy metal legs, 42x62 in. tops, 8 ft. extension; regularly \$17.00; special Tuesday, on fourth floor, \$3.96.

R. H. Macy & Co.'s Attractions Are Their Low Prices.

# Macy's

24th to 26th St.

## Steamer Rugs

Basement.

A splendid collection of Domestic and high-grade Imported Steamer Rugs at prices very much lower than elsewhere.

Domestic Rugs, \$2.48 to \$12.29  
Imported Rugs, \$13.02 to \$39.89

## June Weddings—Furniture



The advent of June starts the usual interest in weddings fixed for the month of roses and brings up anew the old, old question.

### "What Shall I Give the Bride?"

If the claims of Cupid distress you we suggest that you visit our Furniture department. The displays there will surely solve the gift puzzle. Prices on many of the most artistic and appropriate lines have been reduced in anticipation of your coming.

## Three- and Five-Piece Parlor Suits

Solid mahogany and mahogany-finished frames. Some are plain; others richly carved. They will be upholstered with tapestry, velour or satin damask, according to the taste of the purchaser.

Three-Piece Parlor Suits	Five-Piece Parlor Suits
Reduced from \$37.40 to \$28.24	Reduced from \$52.50 to \$39.24
Reduced from \$43.75 to \$34.24	Reduced from \$60.25 to \$46.50
Reduced from \$47.50 to \$37.25	Reduced from \$135.00 to \$98.00
Reduced from \$104.25 to \$86.75	Reduced from \$144.50 to \$121.25

Gold Parlor Cabinets	Vernis-Martin Cabinets
Reduced from \$50.25 to \$41.89	Reduced from \$35.24 to \$23.49
Reduced from \$66.75 to \$51.75	Reduced from \$37.49 to \$21.49
Reduced from \$82.50 to \$65.75	Reduced from \$46.49 to \$36.24
Reduced from \$97.50 to \$81.25	Reduced from \$45.24 to \$37.74
Reduced from \$112.50 to \$93.75	Reduced from \$75.00 to \$62.50
Reduced from \$135.50 to \$121.50	Reduced from \$78.50 to \$61.24

Rookwood Cabinets	Vernis-Martin Tables
Reduced from \$35.24 to \$29.34	Reduced from \$6.74 to \$5.67
Reduced from \$40.00 to \$33.24	Reduced from \$9.49 to \$7.49
Reduced from \$43.49 to \$36.24	Reduced from \$10.49 to \$8.74
Reduced from \$47.49 to \$37.49	Reduced from \$12.49 to \$9.74
Reduced from \$75.25 to \$62.50	Reduced from \$14.74 to \$11.24

## Wilton and Best Smyrna Rugs

### In Oriental and Two-Toned Effects At Much Less Than Regular Prices

WILTON RUGS, 8 1/2 x 10 1/2 feet, at \$23.74	SMYRNA RUGS, 9 x 12 feet, at \$27.79
WILTON RUGS, 9 x 12 feet, at \$25.74	SMYRNA RUGS, 7 1/2 x 10 1/2 feet, at \$20.89
	SMYRNA RUGS, 6 x 9 feet, at \$12.89
	SMYRNA RUGS, 4 x 7 feet, at \$6.48
	SMYRNA RUGS, 48x54 inches, at \$4.48
	SMYRNA RUGS, 36x72 inches, at \$3.86
	SMYRNA RUGS, 30x60 inches, at \$2.86
	SMYRNA RUGS, 36x